Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00

AGR-05 AID-05 /078 W

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R 071824Z JAN 75 FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5513 INFO ALL AMCONSULS MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: MX PINT

SUBJECT: SOCIALIST PARTY OF WORKERS CAMPESINO MARCH HALTED.

REFS: A) MEXICO 9846 B) MEXICO 10771

- 1. ON DECEMBER 31 THE GOM (FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE AND MEXICAN ARMY) BROKE UP IN STATE OF TLAXCALA A MARCH OF AN ESTIMATED 2,500 CAMPESINOS EN ROUTE TO PRESIDENTIAL RESIDENCE IN MEXICO CITY. CAMPESINOS WERE RETURNED IN MILITARY TRUCKS TO VERACRUZ, WHERE MARCH BEGAN. THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE REPORTED.
- 2. MARCH WAS ORGANIZED BY SOCIALIST PARTY OF WORKERS (PST) AND LED BY FORMER FEDERAL DEPUTY CESAR DEL ANGEL, WHO ORGANIZED AND LED SIMILAR MARCH NOV 21 (SEE REF A). DEL ANGEL AND FIVE OTHERS WERE ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH ILLEGAL ACQUISITION AND POSSESSION OF ARMS. (ACCORDING TO PRESS, POLICE SEIZED EIGHT PISTOLS AND 68 CARTRIDGES.) ALL ARE CURRENTLY FREE ON BAIL. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3. PURPOSE OF MARCH ACCORDING TO PST PRESS BULLETIN, WAS TO PROTEST FAILURE OF GOM FUNCTIONARIES TO CARRY OUT PRESIDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS TO ATTEND TO VARIOUS CAMPESINO DEMANDS, THE PRINCIPAL AMONG THEM BEING LEGAL RECOGNITION OF FARM LABOR UNIONS. OTHERS DEAL WITH LOCAL PROBLEMS OF VERACRUZ TOBACCO AND SUGAR CANE WORKERS, WHO SEEK PROFITSHARING AND LABOR VOICE IN MILL MANAGEMENT.

4. COMMENT:

A) THERE MAY BE SEVERAL REASONS WHY THIS PST MARCH WAS STOPPED, WHEN SIMILAR ONE JUST FIVE WEEKS AGO WAS ALLOWED TO TAKE PLACE. ONE IS FAILURE OF PST TO JOIN IN THE PACT OF OCAMPO (SEE REF B), PLEDGING ADHERENCE TO PRES. ECHEVERRIA'S AGRARIAN POLICIES. CERTAINLY PST HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.

B) ANOTHER MAY BE DESIRE TO PREVENT PUBLICITY OF GOM FAILURE TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS PRESENTED PERSONALLY TO PRESIDENT.

C) STILL ANOTHER MAY HAVE BEEN WISH TO AVOID ARRIVAL IN VERACRUZ AT TIME (JAN 6) WHEN

PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WAS IN VERACRUZ WITH SIGNATORY GROUPS OF OCAMPO PACT CELEBRATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF PASSAGE TO MEXICO'S FIRST AGRARIAN REFORM LAW.

D) WHATEVER THE REASON, THE IRONY OF AN ADMINISTRATION WHICH TALKS ABOUT DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNED BUT
BREAKS UP PROTEST MARCHES HAS NOT ESCAPED COMMENT FROM,
INTER ALIA, EXCELSIOR, MEXICO'S MOST INFLUENTIAL DAILY.
THIS INCIDENT ALSO TENDS TO CONFIRM JUDGMENT REPORTED
REF B - THAT WHILE MEXICAN CAMPESINO IS GOING TO BENEFIT
FROM GOM ATTACKS ON AGRARIAN PROBLEMS, HE WILL DO SO IN WAYS
WHICH ONLY GOM WILL DETERMINE.
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